

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An interdental brush comprising:

bristles (11);

a wire (12) with which the bristles (11) are twisted; and

a handle (13) attached to the wire, wherein

the handle (13) is composed of a main body (21) and a sub-body (22),

the main body (21) is provided with a longitudinal hole (41) into which a base part of the wire (12) is inserted, and a lateral hole (43) intersecting the longitudinal hole (41) from opposing sides of the longitudinal hole,

the base part of the wire (12) is provided with a ~~coming-off preventing~~ bent portion (51) formed so as to be exposed to the lateral hole (43) and wherein the bent portion (51) of the wire protrudes into at least one of the opposing sides of the lateral hole (43) hole so as to prevent longitudinal removal of the wire (12) from the longitudinal hole (41), and

the sub-body (22) is provided with an engagement portion (52) filling the lateral hole (43) so as to surround a periphery of the bent portion (51).

2. (Previously Presented) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 1, wherein a part of a surface of the main body (21) is covered with the sub-body (22), and discrimination properties of the main body (21) and the sub-body (22) are different from each other.

3. (Previously Presented) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 2, wherein the main body (21) and the sub-body (22) are made of synthetic resin.

4. (Original) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 2, wherein a difference in the discrimination properties results from at least one of color, gloss and material.

5. (Previously Presented) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main body (21) comprises a shoulder part (31), a tail part (33) and a barrel part (32) communicating the shoulder part (31) and the tail part (33) via a low step,

the lateral hole (43) is positioned in the barrel part (32),

the sub-body (22) covers the barrel part (32), and

boundaries between surfaces of the shoulder part (31) and the tail part (32) and a surface of the sub-body (22) adjacent thereto are flush with each other.

6. (Previously Presented) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 2, wherein the main body (21) comprises a shoulder part (31), a tail part (33) and a barrel part (32) communicating the shoulder part (31) and the tail part (33) via a low step,

the lateral hole (43) is positioned in the barrel part (32),

the sub-body (22) covers the barrel part (32), and

boundaries between surfaces of the shoulder part (31) and the tail part (32) and a surface of the sub-body (22) adjacent thereto are flush with each other.

7. (Previously Presented) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 3, wherein
the main body (21) comprises a shoulder part (31), a tail part (33) and a barrel part (32)
communicating the shoulder part (31) and the tail part (33) via a low step,
the lateral hole (43) is positioned in the barrel part (32),
the sub-body (22) covers the barrel part (32), and
boundaries between surfaces of the shoulder part (31) and the tail part (32) and a surface
of the sub-body (22) adjacent thereto are flush with each other.

8. (Previously Presented) The interdental brush as claimed in claim 4, wherein
the main body (21) comprises a shoulder part (31), a tail part (33) and a barrel part (32)
communicating the shoulder part (31) and the tail part (33) via a low step,
the lateral hole (43) is positioned in the barrel part (32),
the sub-body (22) covers the barrel part (32), and
boundaries between surfaces of the shoulder part (31) and the tail part (32) and a surface
of the sub-body (22) adjacent thereto are flush with each other.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an interdental brush comprising the steps
of:

forming, by primary resin molding, a main body (21) of a handle (13) having a
longitudinal hole (41) and a lateral hole (43) intersecting the longitudinal hole (41) from
opposing sides of the longitudinal hole (41);

inserting a base part of a wire (12), with which bristles (11) are twisted, into the longitudinal hole (41) so as to be exposed to the lateral hole (43);

forming a ~~coming-off preventing~~ bent portion (51) at the base part of the wire (12) via the lateral hole (43) wherein the bent portion (51) of the wire protrudes into at least one of the opposing sides of the lateral hole (43) hole so as to prevent longitudinal removal of the wire (12) from the longitudinal hole (41); and

forming, by secondary resin molding, a sub-body (22) of the handle (13) such that a part thereof fills the lateral hole (43) so as to surround a periphery of the bent portion (51).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of producing the interdental brush as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step of forming the bent portion (51) is performed by inserting a rod-shaped jig J into one of the opposing sides of the lateral hole (43) and pressing a tip part of the jig J onto ~~a to-be bent portion of~~ the base part of the wire (12).

11. (Original) The method of producing the interdental brush as claimed in claim 9, wherein the same material is used in the primary resin molding and the secondary resin molding.

12. (Original) The method of producing the interdental brush as claimed in claim 10, wherein the same material is used in the primary resin molding and the secondary resin molding.